

December 12, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Presentations:
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service,
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

John Stanton (Chairman/CEO of Western Wireless Corp.), Mikal Thomsen (President of Western Wireless Corp.) and I made separate *ex parte* presentations on December 9th to:

Commissioner Adelstein and Lisa Zaina;
Commissioner Martin, Dan Gonzalez and Sam Feder;
John Muleta and David Furth;
William Maher, Elizabeth Yokus Mumaw, Paul Garnett and Vickie Robinson.

Within the context of the ongoing proceeding being deliberated by the Joint Board on Universal Service, we discussed Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designation standards and the problems associated with the imposition of a primary line restriction.

We also explained Western's rationale for filing (on October 30, 2003) its *Rate of Return* Petition for Rule Making (see RM No. 10822).

No materials were handed out or used at these meetings. If you have any questions, then please contact me at 202-654-5903.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Rubin
Director of Federal Government Affairs
Western Wireless Corp.

